

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /124 W

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P R 181711Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4355

INFO RUESFMQ/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 518

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION NATO

COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 0298

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, NATO

SUBJ: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE MINISTER

ATTACKS NORWEGIANS

WHEN QUERIED BY PRESS ABOUT SPEECH AT NORDIC COUNCIL MEETING
IN STOCKHOLM FEB 17 IN WHICH PA MINISTER MAGNUS KJARTANSSON
ATTACKED NORWAY FOR INTERFERING IN ICELANDIC INTERNAL AFFAIRS
BY COMMENTING ON KEFLAVIK BASE ISSUE, FONMIN AGUSTSSON SAID ONLY
HE REGRETTED ISSUE HAD BEEN RAISED IN THAT FORUM AND DID NOT
THINK THAT HAD BEEN APPROPRIATE PLACE FOR SUCH DISCUSSION.

WITH NO NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHED HERE ON MONDAY, LOCAL REACTION
SO FAR IS LIMITED ALTHOUGH ATTACK ON NORWEGIANS IS NOT LIKELY
TO BE POPULAR.

FOR STOCKHOLM, COPENHAGEN, OSLO AND HELSINKI:

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WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT OF ANY SIGNIFICANT LOCAL REACTION.

COMMENT: SINCE PUBLICATION OF FEB 7 SPEECH BY PRIMIN IN WHICH HE SAID IT WOULD BE "UNREALISTIC" TO THINK THAT US TROOPS WOULD HAVE DEPARTED BY END OF PRESENT ELECTORAL TERM, BALL HAS BEEN IN PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE COURT AND REACTION HAD TO BE EXPECTED. ATTACKING NORWEGIANS IS CONVENIENT WAY OF ATTACKING PRIMIN AND PROGRESSIVE PARTY WITHOUT SAYING SO. SINCE ATTACK WAS DELIVERED JUST IN TIME FOR REPORT TO REACH REYKJAVIK SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH ARRIVAL OF NORWEGIAN FONMIN FRYDENLUND, IT OBVIOUSLY WAS ALSO AIMED TO INTIMIDATE HIM AND OFFSET ANYTHING HE MIGHT SAY. PA MAY FIND THIS STEP TO BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE IN ICELANDIC PUBLIC OPINION.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974REYKJA00298
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740226/aaaaaxzf.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IDF RETENTION ISSUE: PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE MINISTER ATTACKS NORWEGIANS
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, IC, NATO, IDF, ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005